



Ernie Fletcher  
Governor

LaJuana S. Wilcher, Secretary  
Environmental and Public  
Protection Cabinet

Christopher L. Lilly  
Commissioner  
Department of Public Protection

Commonwealth of Kentucky  
**Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet  
Public Service Commission**

211 Sower Blvd.  
P.O. Box 615  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615  
Telephone: (502) 564-3940  
Fax: (502) 564-3460

Mark David Goss  
Chairman

Teresa Hill  
Vice Chairman

Gregory Coker  
Commissioner

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact:  
Andrew Melnykovich  
(502) 564-3940 x208  
(502) 330-5981 (cell)

### **BEAT THE HEAT THROUGH ENERGY CONSERVATION, PSC SAYS** *Kentucky's electric utilities are meeting demand for power*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 18, 2006) – Kentucky's electric utilities report they are having no trouble meeting the high demand for power created by the hot and humid weather that has settled over the state, the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) says.

However, to help reduce the demand for power so that it does not exceed the utilities' ability to provide it, the PSC is encouraging consumers to conserve energy and, at the same time, lower their utility bills

"The utilities that we regulate have told us they anticipate no problems in generating enough power to meet demand or in transmitting that power to where it is needed," PSC Chairman Mark David Goss said. "But energy conservation is always a good idea for consumers, and can be helpful to utilities at times of very high demand."

A heat wave over much of the nation has led to record high electric demand this week in several states, including California, Texas and New York. With temperatures in Kentucky expected to be near 100 degrees in the next two days, electric usage in the state could also reach record levels.

"Because this kind of weather is not that unusual for Kentucky in July, our utilities are prepared for it," PSC Vice Chairman Teresa Hill said. "Consumers also should be prepared for summer heat by knowing what they can do to reduce electric usage."

PSC Commissioner Greg Coker noted that simple measures can make a big difference in energy consumption.

"Set your thermostat at 78 degrees in the summer," he said. "Every degree below that increases your air conditioning bill by as much as 8 percent."

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Other easy conservation measures include turning off lights, televisions and home computers when they are not in use, Coker said. Closing blinds during the day can lower air conditioner usage, he added.

More energy conservation tips are available on the Web from the Kentucky Office of Energy Policy at <http://energy.ky.gov/dre3/tips/tips.htm>.

The PSC is an agency within the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet. It regulates more than 1,500 gas, water, sewer, electric and telecommunication utilities operating in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has approximately 110 employees.

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### **ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP SHEET FOLLOWS**

## SAVING ENERGY IN THE SUMMER HEAT

- If you have central air conditioning, set your thermostat no lower than 78 degrees, which is comfortable for most people. Every degree below 78 raises your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 percent to 8 percent.
- Keep blinds and drapes closed during the day, particularly on windows facing south. This will reduce air conditioning demand by keeping out sun and heat.
- Lights, televisions, computers and appliances not only use electricity, they generate heat. Keep them turned off when they are not needed.
- Use appliances such as ovens, dishwashers and clothes dryers early in the day or late in the evening, when temperatures are cooler.
- Use your microwave instead of your stove and oven. It generates less heat.
- Use fans to supplement room or central air conditioning. They do not lower air temperatures, but the breeze they produce makes it feel cooler. Fans use much less electricity than air conditioners.
- Use the exhaust fans in your bathroom sparingly. In just one hour they can remove a houseful of cooled air.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents. Not only do fluorescents use much less energy and last 10 times longer, they generate less heat.